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INSTITUTE**

*Africa's Fashion Law Institute*

# **NIGERIA TO IMPLEMENT PLASTIC PACKAGING REGULATIONS**

WHAT FASHION BRANDS  
SHOULD KNOW (2024–2025)

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# THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE



## NATIONAL BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS (SUPS)

The Federal Government initiated a phase-in ban on single-use plastics, starting with government offices in 2024 and aiming for a nationwide ban by January 2025, targeting items like straws, cutlery, plastic bottles, and small sachets. In February 2025, implementation guidelines were published focusing on improved waste collection, recycling systems, and reduction/elimination of SUPs. In Lagos State, full enforcement began July 1, 2025, banning Styrofoam packs, straws, lightweight plastic bags, and other SUPs. Violators risk penalties or business closure.

## LAGOS BANS TEXTILE WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

During Lagos Fashion Week (October 2024), the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) announced plans to ban all textile waste from state landfills within three months. This commitment was reaffirmed on International Zero Waste Day (April 2025), where LAWMA highlighted that Lagos generates about 13,000 tonnes of waste daily, of which 1,040 tonnes ( $\approx 8\%$ ) is textile waste.





# TO TACKLE THIS, LAWMA IS:



## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with Dutch firms (Closing the Loop, Harvest Waste Consortium) and Ghana's Jospong Group and Zoomlion collaboration to decommission the Olusosun dumpsite.



## COLLABORATION

LAWMA will work with Tejuosho Market, Yaba, as a pilot hub to collect textile waste and transfer it to recycling companies.



## EDUCATION

Students of LAWMA Academy are being trained to upcycle textile waste into practical products, creating economic opportunities and promoting circular fashion.

### Note :

A Waste-to-Energy (WtE) initiative, part of Lagos' circular economy strategy, converting municipal solid waste into usable electricity. Developing waste-to-energy projects such as the €120m Epe landfill initiative converting 2,500–3,000 tonnes of waste daily into electricity.

This policy shift marks a major step in Nigeria's sustainability agenda, urging fashion brands to rethink waste management, recycling, and circular economy practices in line with global standards.



# EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) & COMPLIANCE

Through a collaboration with UNEP, Nigeria is preparing to implement a full EPR framework for plastic packaging. This requires companies producing/importing/distributing/selling plastic packaging—like fashion brands—to be legally responsible for the full lifecycle of that packaging. They must fund and participate in Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) responsible for waste collection, recycling, and public awareness. The regulations also call on companies to develop alternatives to plastic packaging, adopt reusable containers, make packaging more recyclable, and incorporate recycled content.



## **Note :**

NESREA, with UNEP and the World Bank, has published national guidelines for implementing EPR, including creating a plastic packaging registry, defining obligations across the value chain, and setting recycling/recovery targets.



# PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATIONS (PROS)

NESREA and the Ministry of Environment are implementing EPR frameworks, making producers, importers, and brand owners legally responsible for the lifecycle of their packaging—from production to post-consumer disposal. The Plastic Waste Control Regulations (Draft 2025) and accompanying EPR guidelines will mandate traceability, collection, and recycling targets. Already, models like the Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA) operate as PROs in the food and beverage sector, managing packaging waste recovery and public awareness. Fashion brands will soon need to align with similar initiatives.

## **Operational & Economic Considerations**

### **Production & Supply Chain Disruption**

Industry stakeholders, including the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), have warned that bans on SUPs will disrupt manufacturing processes, supply chains, and likely increase operating costs—especially for SMEs.

### **Need for Strategic Alternatives**

Manufacturers advocate for a balanced transition: incentivizing recycling infrastructure, supporting sustainable alternatives, and deploying inclusive stakeholder engagement strategies. Nigeria currently recycles less than 15–30% of plastic waste. The sudden ban could exacerbate waste mismanagement unless supported by infrastructure investment.





# CALLS FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **Opportunities for SMEs & Innovators**

Lagos' SUP ban has sparked innovation in sustainable packaging—from paper-based alternatives to recycled products—turning regulation into economic opportunity.

- **Circular Economy & Policy Support**

Nigeria's Circular Economy Roadmap and the 2023 Plastic Waste Control Regulations are part of a broader strategy to shift from a linear production model to a sustainable, circular system by 2050. Stakeholders emphasize the need for recycling hubs, policy incentives, and behavioral change to ensure effectiveness.





# WHAT FASHION BRANDS SPECIFICALLY NEED TO DO

- **Audit Current Packaging**

Assess your use of plastic bags, polybags, hangers, or Styrofoam. Identify exposures to SUP regulations.

- **Source Sustainable Alternatives**

Invest in paper, biodegradable plastics, cloth totes, or recycled materials. Engage with Lagos-based innovators and emerging packaging startups.

- **Plan for EPR Compliance**

Build systems to track your packaging lifecycle—materials sourced, used, recycled—while preparing for future PRO participation.

- **Communicate & Educate**

Inform consumers and industry peers about your shift. Transparency builds trust and positions you as a sustainability leader.

- **Engage with Policy & Industry Groups**

Join EPR dialogues, support recycling initiatives, and work with representative bodies to shape realistic regulatory frameworks.

## INNOVATION & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As mentioned earlier, the current regulatory urgency presents opportunities for brands to innovate—such as using recycled materials or collaborating with circular-economy initiatives—thus gaining both regulatory and brand advantage.





## CONCLUSION

Nigeria's phased ban on single-use plastics and its expanding EPR framework mean fashion brands are no longer peripheral players—they're now regulated actors in the packaging ecosystem. Proactive compliance and strategic adaptation, rather than reactive changes, will determine who's seen as leader vs. laggard.





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